

Today's News - Friday, September 25, 2009

- An in-depth look at why and how we can adapt to climate change as we try to avert it (things will never be the same no matter what).
- A call to teach children planning in schools to "create a solid generation of planning participants."
- Kamin gives thumbs-up and thumbs-down to Trump's new Chicago tower: it "meets the ground superbly and touches the sky weakly."
- Saffron does the same for Drexel's new dorm in Philadelphia: it's "conceived with no shortage of brio," but has its flaws.
- Pogrebin visits the "transparent new home" for Poets House in NYC.
- Moneo x 3 tall towers in the heart of Beirut.
- Lin "unearths the hidden virtues of the banal burrow" that is now the Museum of Chinese in America.
- Bristol spends big bucks to rebrand its museum - with its original name (taxpayers are none too happy).
- AIA Fort Worth's new Center for Architecture will change the chapter's "years of being reclusive to the point of near invisibility" in the community.
- Baillieu and Spring celebrate and pay tribute to the legacy of Monica Pidgeon.
- 2009 Curry Stone Design Prize winner and finalists lauded "for improving people's lives and the state of the world" (great presentation).
- PNC completes the largest green living wall in the U.S. (it looks great - let's hope it stays that way!).
- Weekend diversions:
- Brussat finds the book of his dreams in Millais's "Exploding the Myths of Modern Architecture": it is "perhaps the fullest account of how modern architecture has survived dysfunction, dishonesty, ugliness and unpopularity."
- Khoury says he's had enough with Western perceptions that have pigeonholed Arab artists into creating "war art" by creating his own.
- "Toward the Sentient City" in NYC explores what a "smart" city might look like and how it could work.
- Bernstein ventures to Yale for "The Green House": it succeeds in showing that green can look good, but the focus on aesthetics "is both a strength and a limitation."
- "The Art of Architecture: Foster + Partners" at the Nasher in Dallas offers "a marvelous trip through many idealized fantasy worlds" (and an actual life-size Foster creation is about to open just two blocks away).
- In San Diego, "Automatic Cities" explores the "psychological and metaphorical influence of architecture on contemporary visual art."
- In Ghent, "Designing Together" highlights cooperation between architect and engineer.
- Call for votes: Cooper-Hewitt's 2009 People's Design Award (or nominate your own pick).

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[Design for Adaptation: Living in a Climate-Changing World: ...how we can adapt the built environment to a world that will, by most accounts, be very different by the end of this century from the one we know today.](#) By Alex Wilson and Andrea Ward-BuildingGreen.com

[Op-Ed: Let's Teach Children Planning: Planners often encounter ineffective public participation because of the fact that citizens often are not taught planning skills in school...Teaching students about the built environment and its institutions enhances students' ability to be an effective citizen...](#) By Michael A. Rodriguez -- Center for Understanding the Built Environment (CUBE) - PLANetizen

[Towering ambiguity: Trump's Chicago tower, the city's second tallest skyscraper, soars from some vantage points and flops from others...meets the ground superbly and touches the sky weakly.](#) By Blair Kamin -- Adrian Smith; Skidmore; Owings & Merrill (SOM); Peter Schaudt [images]- Chicago Tribune

[Erdy McHenry's new Drexel dorm ambitious, flawed: ..Millennium Hall is sure to fire up the debates...rides the skyline like an oversized Leaning Tower of Pisa...conceived with no shortage of brio. It's not just the unusual shape...](#) By Inga Saffron -- Cecil Balmond/Arup [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

[Transparent New Home for Poetry: ...Poets House opens its spacious new home in Battery Park City..."It's part of an effort to make Lower Manhattan an arts community"...](#) By Robin Pogrebin -- Louise Braverman; Polshek Partnership; Michael Van Valkenburgh [images]- New York Times

[Venus Towers launched in Lebanon: ...\\$500m project...in the region of Marina, Solidere \[in\] the heart of Beirut...consists of three luxurious residential buildings...surrounded by 3,500 square meters of greenery and spacious gardens...jogging tracks and children playgrounds. -- Raphael Jose Moneo; Said Khairallah & Partners \[image\]- AME Info \(United Arab Emirates\)](#)

[Crit: Museum of Chinese in America: Maya Lin buries a treasure in the heart of downtown New York...Modest materials...are used everywhere in precious ways...unearths the hidden virtues of the banal burrow, yielding...transparency and revelation. - Matter Practice; mgmt. design; Marcus Doshi Lighting Design \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Bristol Council's £100,000 rebranding of museum with original name: ...despite months of meetings, brainstorming and site visits...failed to find an alternative..."The 'M Shed' is in danger of becoming the latest buzz-word for waste, replacing the Dome and the Scottish Parliament as the national by-word for profligacy with taxpayers' money."](#) - Telegraph (UK)

[Fort Worth architects design space with visitors in mind: After years of being reclusive to the point of near invisibility, the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects has opened the Center for Architecture...making themselves more accessible to the community. -- Firm817 \[images\]- Fort Worth Star-Telegram \(Texas\)](#)

[Monica Pidgeon: 1913-2009: Amanda Baillieu celebrates the legacy of architecture's first lady, while Martin Spring pays personal tribute to his former boss...As a tribute to Monica there is free access to the Pidgeon archive for the next month-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[2009 Curry Stone Design Prize Winner Announced: Transformative Urban Public Works Plan for Medellin, Colombia - Alejandro Echeverri, Sergio Fajardo; finalists: Handmade Building designed by Anna Heringer, and Transition Network inspired by Rob Hopkins \[links to images, profiles\]- Curry Stone Design Prize](#)

[PNC Bank Completes Biggest Green Living Wall in North America: This is more than just a publicity stunt...The south-facing wall is 25% cooler than other walls on the same building...just might inspire other environmentally minded companies to install green walls of their own. \[image\]- Fast Company](#)

[Book review: "Exploding the Myths of Modern Architecture" by Malcolm Millais...perhaps the fullest account of how modern architecture has survived dysfunction, dishonesty, ugliness and unpopularity. By the book's end, however, the "why" still remains elusive. By David Brussat- Providence Journal \(Rhode Island\)](#)

[War-themed art is popular in Lebanon, but many are tired of the fixation on their troubled history: Bernard Khoury...says he's had enough...says American and European gallery owners, curators and collectors have fed Western perceptions that have pigeonholed Arab artists into creating "war art."...\[his\] criticism is expressed in..."P.O.W.," or "Prisoner of War," now on](#)

[display in Beirut \[image\]](#) - MinnPost.com (Minneapolis)

[Towards a Smart City: The Architectural League of New York commissioned five projects for an exhibition exploring the use of technologies and devices that show what a "smart" city might look like and how it could work..."Toward the Sentient City" - David Benjamin/Soo-in Yang/Living Architecture Lab; Natalie Jeremijenko/xdesign Environmental Health Clinic \[images, links\]](#) - Azure magazine (Canada)

[Buildings Easy on the Earth, and the Eyes: "The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture and Design" at the Yale School of Architecture...main idea is to demonstrate that green buildings can look good, and at that the show succeeds...the focus is on aesthetics, which is both a strength and a limitation. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Rick Joy; Michelle Kaufmann; Alanna Stang; Christopher Hawthorne; Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis](#) - New York Times

["The Art of Architecture: Foster + Partners" at the Nasher Sculpture Center tantalizes its audience: ...what is on display is a marvelous trip through many idealized fantasy worlds.](#) - Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas)

["Automatic Cities: The Architectural Imaginary in Contemporary Art" explores the psychological and metaphorical influence of architecture on contemporary visual art, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; opens September 26-](#) ArtDaily.org

["Designing Together - Guy Mouton / Studieburo Mouton" Or how to highlight architecture from the perspective of the cooperation between architect and engineer... at Witte Zaal \(White Room\), Ghent, Belgium, September 25 - October 31 - Witte Zaal](#)

[Call for votes: 2009 People's Design Award; deadline: October 20-](#) Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum



-- Gehry Partners, LLP: Counseling Center (Hejmdal), Danish Cancer Society, Aarhus, Denmark
-- Sparch: Vision City, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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